

Chapter 11.

Public Participation

The public process for the Denny Way/Lake Union CSO Control Project has included federal, state, and local agencies; federally-recognized Indian tribes; organizations; community groups; businesses; individuals; and others who attended meetings, called for information, and were included in briefings.

In general, the public supports the overall Denny Way/Lake Union project because it will reduce CSO discharges into Lake Union and Elliott Bay. Concerns have been raised regarding stormwater discharges to the lake and bay, as these flows often contain contaminants from roadways and parking areas. The verbal and written comments received in response to mailings and meetings have been addressed in Chapter 7 of this facilities plan.

11.1. Process to Date

The decision to begin a preliminary public process for the Denny Way/Lake Union project was made in 1991. This process consisted of briefing individuals with an interest or influence in the project area to determine the factors that should be considered in developing project alternatives. A team of King County (then Metro) and City of Seattle staff began meeting with representatives from community groups, area businesses, environmental organizations, and regulatory agencies as well as elected officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties. Over 100 people and groups were included in meetings.

Since 1991, King County and the City of Seattle have held many briefings and meetings to provide an overview of the joint project and to present the alternatives under consideration. The public process was accelerated and formalized as King County's planning effort and Seattle's design effort continued, and King County and Seattle periodically issued scoping notices and project updates in addition to meetings.

The public outreach activities to date for Phases 1, 2, 3, and 4 are listed below.

- January 1993--briefing for the Eastlake Community Council.
- June 1994--public meeting at the Port of Seattle.
- August 1994--public meeting on Phase 1 at the Seward School.
- March 1995--public hearing on Phase 1 at the Seward School.
- 1995--periodic updates at Eastlake Community Council meetings.

- June 1995--SEPA SEIS scoping notice for Phases 2 and 3 and scoping meeting.
- May 1996--Project update mailed to 10,000 residents and businesses in project vicinity
- June 1996--SEPA SEIS scoping notice for Phase 4.
- June 1997--Public Hearing on SEPA SEIS/NEPA EA
- 1996-7--periodic updates at community meetings in south Lake Union area, Queen Anne, etc.

11.2 Joint SEPA/NEPA Document

A meeting was held in June 1996, between the USEPA, the Washington Department of Ecology, and King County Water Pollution Control Division to discuss the project schedule and required environmental documents. A decision was made to produce both a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) together in a single document rather than two separate documents. It was also decided that the joint SEIS/EA would cover Phases 2 and 3/4 of the Denny Way project.

Representatives from King County and the City of Seattle continued to meet with businesses and community groups individually to discuss the project and proposed alternatives.

The draft SEIS/EA was distributed to agencies and other interested parties between May 27 and June 9, 1997. Comments on the draft document were due by July 15. A public hearing, attended by 27 people, was held at The Mountaineers on June 12, 1997, for the purpose of receiving comments. Six people spoke at the public hearing, and 21 written comments were received during the comment period. All public comments are reproduced and responded to in the final document.

The final SEIS/EA, incorporating responses to public comments received and updates to the project description and impact analysis, is being released jointly with this Facilities Plan. USEPA's Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the NEPA environmental assessment is included with the final document. No SEPA action will be taken on the final joint document for 7 days after issuance, and no NEPA action will be taken for 30 days after issuance, in accordance with mandated SEPA and NEPA appeal periods.

King County followed SEPA public notice and involvement requirements for the project. All property owners within 500 feet of any project alternative were notified of the project; this notification included over 3,000 letters. Notice boards were posted in the South Lake Union area and at the Elliott West site. Legal notices of document availability were published twice in the Queen Anne News and the Seattle Times, and a

public information document was mailed to various community groups and individuals.

11.3 Future Public Participation Activities

Efforts are being made to continue the public outreach effort as the project moves into the design phase. A newsletter/project information document is being distributed concurrently with the final SEIS/EA to residents and business owners in the project vicinity, along with others who have expressed interest. Meetings will continue to be held with the community councils of neighborhoods in the vicinity of the construction project and with other groups that request further information. These meetings will take place both during final design (to gather input and provide design updates) and during the construction phase (to keep the community informed on the status of construction activities).